

JANUARY 21, 1899.

## THE CHURCH ETERNAL.

Subject of Cardinal Gibbons' New Year Sermon.

In accordance with his custom of preaching on the first Sunday of the year, Cardinal Gibbons spoke on New Year's Day at the late Mass at the Cathedral upon the subject, "The Indestructibility of the Church."

His Eminence, in beginning his sermon, alluded to the new year as follows: "The annual recurrence of the new year forcibly reminds us of the changes and revolutions wrought by the ravages of time. Looking before me to-day, I see that the old congregation is being gradually supplanted by new members and the older clergy who have passed away are succeeded by younger and more vigorous laborers in the Lord's vineyard. Archbishops, of course, are no exception to this universal law of nature, and, like many others, I am falling into the 'saw and yellow leaf.' But, thanks to God, we are all cheered by the salutary reflection that we are moving toward a new state of existence where there is joy unending and life imperishable."

"But there is one institution on earth which is proof against the vicissitudes of time and that is Christ, which you have the happiness of possessing. The same sacraments you receive, your forefathers received before you, and the same Gospel of peace and love which your forefathers listened to in their day is preached to you from January to December. 'Jesus Christ, yesterday and to-day and the same forever.' So we can apply the words spoken of Him in today's epistle, where it is said: 'These shall perish, but thou remainest; as doth the garment, but thou shalt change them, and as a vesture thou shalt change them, but thou art always the same and thy years shall not fail.'"

"The indestructibility and vitality of the Catholic Church is a phenomenon truly marvelous and well calculated to excite the admiration of every reflecting mind, especially when we consider the number and variety and the formidable power of the enemies that have been leagued against her from her very birth to the present time. From the day of Pentecost when she was ushered into the world until the victory achieved by Constantine the Great over Maxentius, at the Milvian Bridge, near Rome, the Church passed through a series of ten persecutions unparalleled for atrocity in the annals of the world. Every species of torture that malice could invent was resorted to that every vestige of Christianity might be obliterated from the face of the earth. 'Christians ad leones,' 'The Christians to the lions' was the popular war cry among the pagan populace of Rome."

"For three centuries the Christians were obliged to worship God in the secrecy of their chambers or in the catacombs of Rome, which are still preserved to attest the faith and fortitude of the martyrs. And yet pagan Rome, before whose armies the mightiest nations quailed, was unable to crush the infant church or arrest her progress. In a few years we find the head of the Catholic Church dispensing to Christendom from the very capital from which the Imperial Caesars had fulminated their edicts against Christianity."

"For nine centuries, from the seventh to the sixteenth centuries, Mohammedanism continued to be a standing menace to Christendom. At last the final issue arose when it was to be decided once and for all whether Christian civilization or Islamism should control the destinies of Europe and the world. At the solicitation of the Pope two of the Catholic nations of Europe formed an offensive league against the Turks, who were signally defeated in the memorable battle of Lepanto. And if to-day the crescent, instead of the Cross, surmounts the cities of Europe, the world is indebted for this privilege and blessing to the vigilance of the sovereign Pontiff."

"I would now ask this question of those who are hostile to the Catholic Church and who are plotting or preparing her downfall. How can you hope to overthrow an institution which for nineteen centuries has successfully resisted the combined assaults of the world and the powers of darkness? What means will you employ to compass her ruin? Is it by the power of kings and emperors and prime ministers? They have tried in vain to crush her from the days of Roman Caesars to our own time. Many persons labor under the delusion that in former times the crowned heads of Europe have been the unwavering supporters of the Church and that if their protection was withdrawn she would collapse. The truth is that, with some honorable exceptions, the worst enemies of the Church have been the princes of this world and many so-called princes, too. They chafed and were impatient under her salutary discipline and wished to be rid of her yoke, because she alone in times of oppression had the power and the courage to stand by the rights of the people and to place her breast like a wall of brass against the encroachments of these rulers. With calm confidence we say with the psalmist, 'Why have the Gentiles raged and the people devised strange things? The kings of the earth stood up and the princes met together against the Lord and against Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their yoke from us. But he that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh at them, and the Lord shall deride them.'"

"The Church has seen the birth of every government in Europe, and it is not at all improbable that she shall see

the decay of them all and chant their requiem. She was more than fourteen centuries old when Columbus discovered the continent of America, and she lives to-day to see all the vast possession of the Western Hemisphere pass from the hands of her ancient rulers. The formation of our own Republic is but yesterday to her.

"She has seen monarchies changed into Republics and Republics consolidated into Empires. All this she has seen while her own divine constitution remains unchanged and as firm as the rock on which she is founded. Of her we can truly say in the words of Psalmist, 'They shall perish, but thou remainest and all of them shall grow old as a garment. And as a vesture thou shalt change them and they shall be changed. But thou art always the self-same and thy years shall not fail: the children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be directed forever.'"

"God forbid that we should ascribe to any human cause the marvelous survival of the Catholic Church. Her indestructibility is not due, as some suppose, to her wonderful organization or to the far-reaching policy of her pontiffs, or to the learning and wisdom of her prelates. If she has survived, it is not because of human wisdom, but often in spite of human folly. Her permanency is due not to the arm of the clerk, but to the finger of God.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy name, give glory."—Baltimore Mirror.

## CATHOLICITY NEVER A "STATE CHURCH."

What is called a "State Church" is a sect which is a bureau of the State, like the Russian Schism in Russia, the Greek Schism in Greece, the Presbyterian sect in Scotland, Protestant-Episcopalianism in England, and various kinds of Lutheranism in the Scandinavian and Northern German countries. The Catholic Church can never be a State Church, because it is the world-wide Kingdom for God, by whose laws all States, as well as all individuals, are in duty bound to be guided.

The Church has always shown her self willing to make large concessions in purely administrative matters, and some times, as in Spain and some of the Hispano-American republics, she has gone, under compulsion, to the very last extreme of concession which is possible without a betrayal of the sacred trust imposed upon her by her Divine Founder. In such cases the Church is often called a State Church, but improperly.

Such subjection to the State is always lamentable, as it is a step in the direction of the Cæsarism which has always been the Church's worst enemy. Nothing could be more foolish than to suppose that the Holy Roman See can object to the cessation of State control which has taken place in our newly-acquired possessions. The Churches of the Antilles and Philippines, which have been heretofore controlled by the Spanish government, will hereafter be ruled without interference, like the American Church, by the Pope.

This will be to their great advantage, provided that our Government does not show partiality to Protestantism or interfere in any way with the religious liberty of the Island Catholics.—Church Progress.

## A PRETENDED MIRACLE.

We confess that our belief in miraculous cures would be as weak as water if all cases were like that of Rev. C. H. Holden, a minister of Detroit. Four months ago Brother Holden was thrown from his bicycle, and sustained an injury to his hip, so severe that he was confined to his room until the last week of December, when, tiring of doctors, he called in several other ministers, who prayed over him and anointed him on the head with oil. Then Brother Barlow, assistant pastor of the Clinton avenue Baptist Church, said in a loud voice: "Brother Holden, I bid you to arise and walk." The sick man was startled, but he did so, "supported," however, by two of his visitors.

Dr. A. C. Lee, who attended Brother Holden for two weeks, says that he told him the same thing several times and he wouldn't do it. Another physician declares that he had rubbed the injured limb well with cod-liver oil, and evidently has more faith in it than in the oil that was used by Brother Barlow. The doctors are not agreed upon the nature of the injury, but we incline to the opinion expressed by Dr. Lee: "It is just a case of nervous shock." Dr. Hambley says that the patient used to be very morphia. At last accounts he was not yet fully recovered, and required a trifle more of the opiate to quiet him.

Where the cure comes in we fail to see, though we sincerely hope for Brother Holden's early and complete recovery; and shall be the first to congratulate him. But if he were already walking the streets of Detroit like Saul among the prophets, we should have our doubts about the supernatural character of his cure. He isn't walking much yet, having been wheeled to church last Sabbath. We can assure our non-Catholic readers that the cures wrought at Lourdes and elsewhere are very different from that of Brother Holden. They must stand scientific investigation. The physicians in charge of the Bureau of Proofs at Lourdes would not deem Brother Holden's case worthy of a moment's consideration.—Ave Maria.

None of us care to be accused of saying what we never said, nor of writing what we never wrote.

## For the CATHOLIC RECORD, Still Glows One Star.

TO ALICE.

Around these shadows meet  
And grief clouds veil the dawn  
Of hopes that might have shone,  
Sad heart,

To calm thy troubled breast  
Still glows one star above,  
Bright with a sister's love,  
Sad heart,

To cheer thy lonely grief  
Then fear no cross you meet,  
For little Alice's kiss  
Upon thy lips can't miss,  
Sad heart,

To make the bitter sweet,  
Should every friend you know  
In one brief moment flee,  
Then would my love for thee,  
Sad heart,

Gleam with a warmer glow,  
So trust a little while,  
Love on a little yet,  
For love will not forget,  
Sad heart,

To feed thee with her smile.  
—Timothy Blackheart, M. D.  
St. Stephen, N. B.

## A REMARKABLE RECORD.

Alfred John Doyle, of Belleville, Ontario, who was elected to the office of twenty-seven applicants for aldermanic honors, and on Monday last was elected by the Council to the high position, named Chairman of the Executive Committee, has had a remarkable record in aldermanic affairs in Belleville. In 1876 he was elected to the town Council, and became a member of the Executive Committee, and in 1880 he was elected to the office of alderman. Now, when the new year dawned, he was again elected to the office of alderman, and was again elected to the office of alderman, and was again elected to the office of alderman.

On Monday, 18th inst., in his sixty-eighth year, an old and much respected resident of the town of New Year's, died, leaving behind him a large family and a good record.

Deceased, who was a native of Wexford county, Ireland, settled in this country many years ago, and by careful industry and frugal habits, he had accumulated a comfortable fortune. He contracted a painful disease, known as cancer, some time ago, and the disease gradually increased in severity, until he was unable to move. He was attended by a physician, and the disease was treated with the most skill and the loving care of his children, but he died slowly and surely, and while the happy memories of his life were still fresh in the minds of his family, he was called to his rest. He was a man of high character, and his death was a great loss to his family and to the community.

## OBITUARY.

MR. SOMER, MAXWELL.

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## MR. SOMER, MAXWELL.

This week we chronicle the death of an old and highly esteemed resident of the township of Normandy, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John C. Somer, of this city. Deceased was in the seventy-eighth year of her age, and came to the township of Normandy from the township of St. John's, where she had lived for many years. She was a woman of high character, and her death was a great loss to her family and to the community.

Her greatest earthly happiness was to be in the midst of her children and grand-children, from whom God has taken her to Himself, leaving them in tears.

At her home in Meadowdale, on Sunday January 16, she passed away into that sleep that knows no waking, a loved and loving wife and mother, in the person of Mrs. John C. Somer.

Though ill for some weeks death came unexpectedly at 11:30, and her soul passed peacefully to her Maker. She was the wife of the late John C. Somer, who was a well-known resident of the township of Normandy, and was a member of the St. John's Church.

Mrs. Callaghan was a kind, charitable and loving disposition, and was a devoted wife and mother. She was a member of the St. John's Church, and was a very active worker in the parish. Her death was a great loss to her family and to the community.

The funeral took place on Wednesday morning, January 19, at 10 o'clock, from the St. John's Church. The Rev. Father Doyle officiated, and the burial was in the cemetery of St. John's.

At the regular meeting of St. Joseph's court, 370, held in Dugan's hall, Thursday evening, January 13, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to remove to His heavenly home our esteemed brother, P. J. McCarroll,

Resolved that we, as members of Court 370, express our heartfelt sympathy for his bereaved family, and extend to them our sincere condolences.

Also that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minute-book of the court, and that the members of the court be requested to contribute to the funeral expenses of our brother, P. J. McCarroll.

The regular meeting of the court was held on Thursday evening, January 13, at 8 o'clock, and was presided over by the Rev. Father Doyle.

The meeting was held in Dugan's hall, and was attended by a large number of members of the court. The Rev. Father Doyle presided, and the following resolution was adopted:

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## ELOCQUENCE AND MUSICAL HARMONY.

The lecture and musical entertainment announced by the St. Mary's branch of the Catholic Truth Society in St. Andrew's hall, on Monday evening, 18th inst., was an unqualified success. There was a large and brilliant audience, and a representative attendance of the clergy and leading Catholic laymen of the city.

Bro. M. J. O'Sullivan, was chairman, and the following leaders in the musical circles contributed to the entertainment: Mrs. J. D. McCarroll, Miss Clarke, Miss Cotnam, Mrs. McCarroll, Mrs. E. O'Sullivan and Mr. McCarroll. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Thomas O'Hagan, LL. D., in a complimentary speech. The subject of the lecture was "The Catholic Element in the History of the English Language."

Mr. O'Hagan paid a tribute to the Catholic Truth Society and its work, and wished it further success and greater fame. He briefly outlined the development of ancient literature and sketched its influence on the English language. He took up the Catholic element in the growing culture of the English at Chaucer's time. He referred to the attitude of the poets of the Elizabethan period, and the influence of the Catholic element on the one hand and the secular priests on the other, praising his sympathy with the latter.

His criticism of the poets of the Elizabethan period was scholarly and full of interest. He contended for the presence of the Catholic element in the history of the English language, but it is quite impossible to claim the former for any Church. His appreciation of the work of the Catholic Truth Society, and his praise of the Catholic element in the history of the English language, was a most interesting and instructive lecture.

Mr. O'Hagan's lecture was a most interesting and instructive one, and was well received by the audience. He was a most able and eloquent speaker, and his lecture was a most valuable contribution to the history of the English language.

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